



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2020

Dallas County Reports 2,183 New Positive 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases and 9 Deaths Including 442 Probable Cases

DALLAS -- As of 12:00 pm November 21, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 2,183 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Dallas County, 1,741 confirmed cases and 442 probable cases. There is a cumulative total of 117,151 cases (PCR test), including 1,184 confirmed deaths. There is a cumulative total of 11,173 probable cases (antigen test), including 26 probable deaths.

The additional deaths being reported today includes the following:

- A man in his 40's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 50's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. He had been hospitalized, and had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, had underlying high risk health conditions.
- A woman in her 80's who was a resident of the City of Dallas. She had been critically ill in an area hospital, and had underlying high risk health conditions.

The provisional seven-day average of daily new confirmed and probable cases (by date of test collection) for CDC week 46 has increased to **1,321**, which is a rate of **50.1** daily new cases per 100,000 residents-- the highest case rate in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 has increased, with **16.8%** of symptomatic patients presenting to area hospitals testing positive in week 46 (week ending 11/14/20).

A provisional total of 1,224 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 46, a **three-fold** increase from 5 weeks earlier (week ending 10/10/20). Since November 1, there have been 2,851 COVID-19 cases in school-aged children and staff reported from over 558 separate K-12 schools in Dallas County, including 393 staff members. A total of 1,224 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in school-aged children (5 to 17 years) during CDC week 46 -- which is 50% more than the number of cases in this age group reported during the second highest peak week of cases in July (Week 28). Since November 1, there have been over 116 COVID-19 cases in children and staff reported from 60 separate daycares in Dallas County.

Over the past 30 days, there have been over 850 COVID-19 cases reported from 84 separate long-term care facilities, including 304 staff members. This is the highest number of long-term care facilities with active outbreaks reported in Dallas County since the beginning of the pandemic. Over the past 30 days, there have been 90 COVID-19 cases reported from over 14 separate congregate-living facilities, including 22 staff members and one death of a staff member.

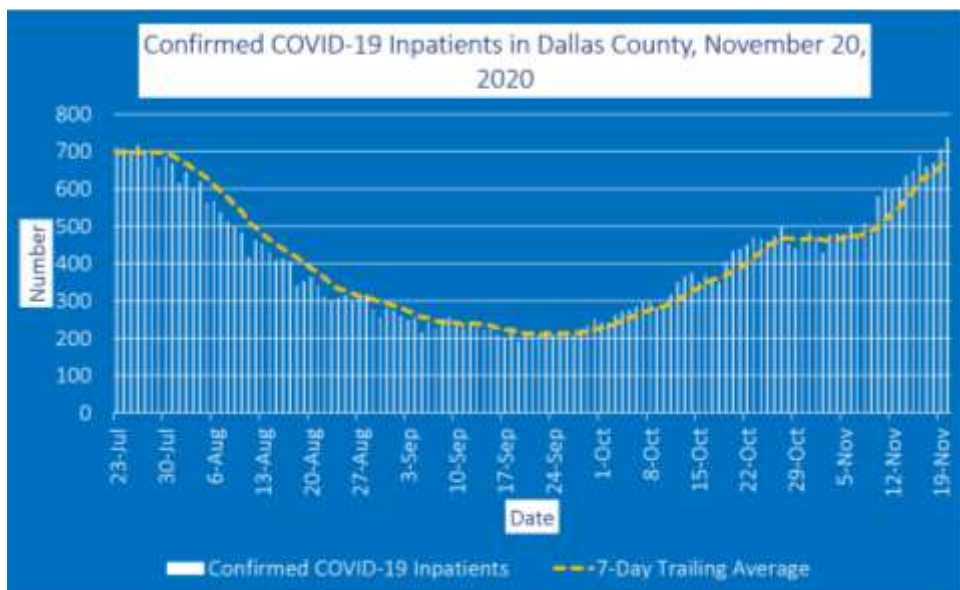
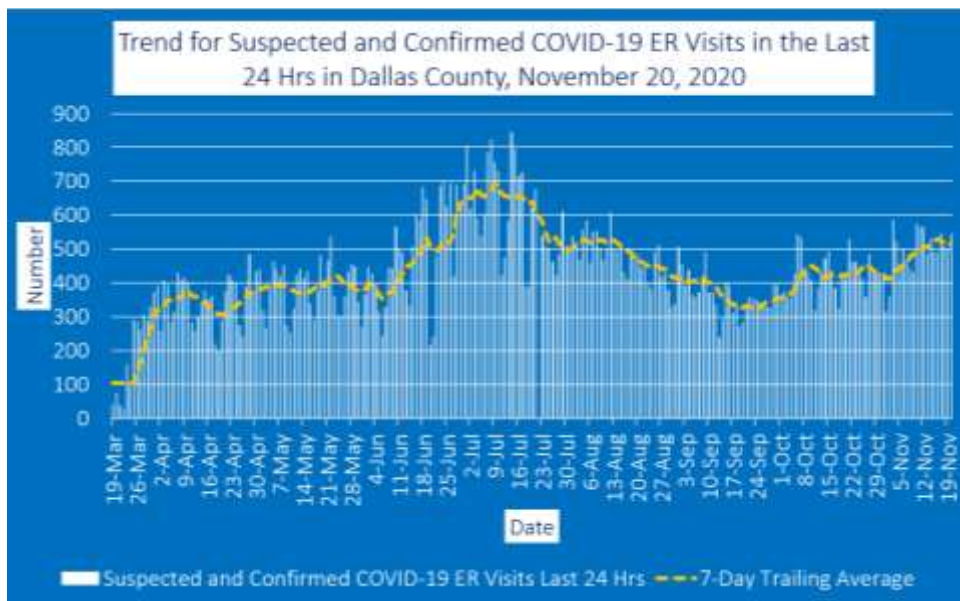
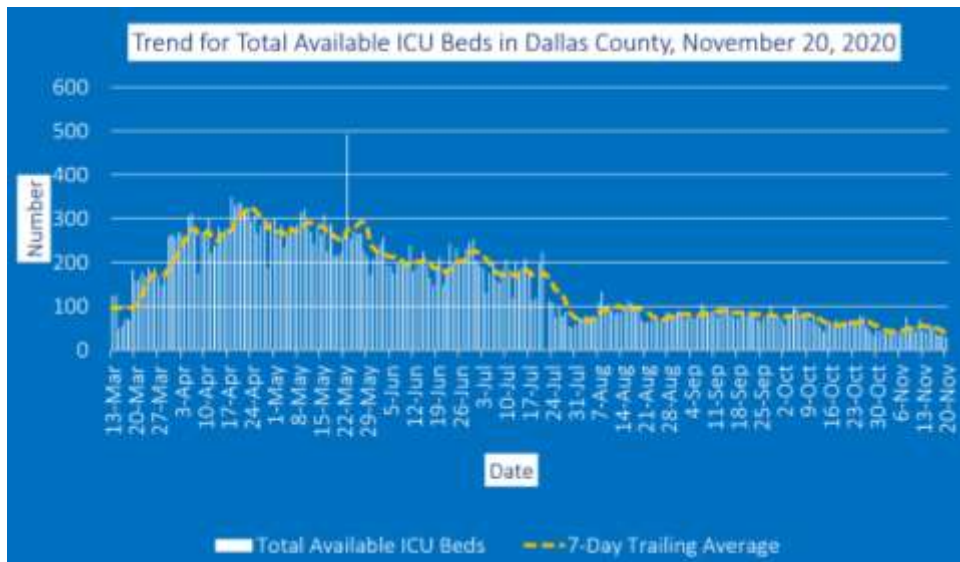
Of all confirmed cases requiring hospitalization to date, more than two-thirds have been under 65 years of age. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Of the total confirmed deaths reported to date, about 23% have been associated with long-term care facilities. New cases are being reported as a daily aggregate, with a more detailed summary report updated Tuesdays and Fridays.

Local health experts use hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ER visits as three of the key indicators as part of determining the COVID-19 Risk Level (color-coded risk) and corresponding guidelines for activities during our COVID-19 response. There were 738 COVID-19 patients in acute care in Dallas County for the period ending on Friday, November 20. The number of emergency room visits for COVID-19 like symptoms in Dallas County was 545 for the same time period, which represents around 23 percent of all emergency department visits in the county according to information reported to the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council. We saw an increase of over 30 hospitalizations in the last 24 hours. As we have seen over the previous months, patients may require extensive stays depending on the severity of their illness and the overall impact on our hospitals may be substantial. Individual actions offer our greatest ability to decrease cases and reduce hospitalizations, please think of yourself, our community as a whole, and especially our health care providers, and make responsible decisions in line with public health guidance. You can find additional information on risk-level monitoring data [here](#).

Additionally, Table 9 below is from the November 20, 2020 Dallas County Health and Human Services 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Summary. Table 9 is a summary of confirmed and probable cases and deaths since late June in Dallas County.

Table 9. Summary of weekly COVID-19 confirmed and probable cases and deaths, Dallas County (CDC Weeks 25 - 46)

| CDC Week | Week Ending | Total Confirmed and Probable Cases | Total School-Aged Cases (5 to 17 years) | Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Cases* | Daily Average New Confirmed and Probable Deaths** | Percentage of Tests Positive for SARS-CoV-2*** |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 25 | 6/20/2020 | 5,863 | 453 | 838 | 5 | 26.9% |
| 26 | 6/27/2020 | 8,618 | 625 | 1,231 | 8 | 30.5% |
| 27 | 7/4/2020 | 8,949 | 660 | 1,278 | 9 | 30.0% |
| 28 | 7/11/2020 | 9,199 | 832 | 1,314 | 9 | 26.6% |
| 29 | 7/18/2020 | 6,613 | 662 | 945 | 11 | 21.7% |
| 30 | 7/25/2020 | 4,520 | 477 | 646 | 15 | 19.3% |
| 31 | 8/1/2020 | 3,357 | 416 | 480 | 12 | 15.9% |
| 32 | 8/8/2020 | 2,848 | 304 | 407 | 9 | 13.8% |
| 33 | 8/15/2020 | 2,166 | 180 | 309 | 9 | 13.0% |
| 34 | 8/22/2020 | 1,758 | 184 | 251 | 6 | 11.0% |
| 35 | 8/29/2020 | 2,199 | 182 | 314 | 6 | 10.6% |
| 36 | 9/5/2020 | 2,072 | 153 | 296 | 3 | 10.6% |
| 37 | 9/12/2020 | 1,872 | 189 | 267 | 2 | 9.6% |
| 38 | 9/19/2020 | 2,235 | 236 | 319 | 2 | 11.5% |
| 39 | 9/26/2020 | 2,509 | 264 | 358 | 2 | 10.6% |
| 40 | 10/3/2020 | 2,695 | 306 | 385 | 2 | 10.1% |
| 41 | 10/10/2020 | 3,639 | 460 | 520 | 2 | 11.5% |
| 42 | 10/17/2020 | 4,510 | 547 | 644 | 2 | 14.3% |
| 43 | 10/24/2020 | 5,379 | 687 | 768 | 3 | 15.1% |
| 44 | 10/31/2020 | 5,472 | 615 | 782 | 3 | 15.0% |
| 45 | 11/7/2020 | 7,703 | 934 | 1,100 | 3 | 15.3% |
| 46 | 11/14/2020 | 9,247 | 1,224 | 1,321 | 3 | 16.8% |





“Today we set another new record for the most COVID positive cases in a single day at 2,183. Also, we announced nine new deaths. For the week, we had a total of 49 deaths and an average of 1,557 new COVID positive cases a day. Additionally, today we released the report for CDC week 46 ending November 14, which is prepared by slotting in each test by the day it was performed and each death by the day that it happened as opposed to when it was reported. This is our most accurate report but does lag by approximately a week. That report shows that for the week ending November 14, the average daily cases were 1,321 and averaged three deaths a day.

As we approach Thanksgiving in this time of record spread, it is increasingly important that we take the doctors’ advice. We’ve now heard from the local doctors, President Trump’s task force, and the CDC all saying the same thing: celebrate Thanksgiving with those that you live with and forgo larger family get-togethers at this time of unprecedented spread. Stop interacting with crowds and consider grocery curbside pickup and delivery.

It’s up to all of us to flatten the curve and renew our strength to protect ourselves, our community and our economy for a little while longer until the vaccine can help put this dark chapter behind us. I know this is disappointing news for Thanksgiving but we have so much to be thankful for. We must focus on what we’re thankful for and protecting it for the future and not give in to momentary weakness or selfishness that will lead to bad decisions. We can do this North Texas if we all band together in the spirit of courage and camaraderie,” said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

All Dallas County COVID-19 Updates and Information can be found here:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/> and all guidance documents can be found here:
<https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/guidance-health.php>

Specific Guidance for the Public:

- [Dallas County COVID-19 Related Health Guidance for the Public](#)
- [Dallas County Measures for Protecting An Institution’s Workforce from COVID-19 Infection: Employer/Employee Guidance](#)
- [Dallas County Guidance for Individuals at High-Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact outside your home: Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don’t live in your household.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others and continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to seek medical care

- Wash your hands often and with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children to do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-base hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve, not your hands. Immediately wash your hands.
- Monitor your health daily. Be alert for symptoms. Take your temperature and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC Travel Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- DSHS: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- DCHHS: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>

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